

# St. Attracta's Senior School

Meadowbrook - Dublin 16



# Scoil Shinsireach Naomh Athracht

Cluain Ghlaise - Áth Cliath 16

Nuachtlitir Marta 2020

March Newsletter 2020

## SCHOOL CLOSURE UPDATE

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On behalf of the entire staff of Saint Attracta's Senior National School, I wish to thank everybody for their co-operation and support over the last few weeks and I hope that you, your children and all your families are in good health in light of the current health crisis.

The initial government plan is for schools to close until March 29<sup>th</sup> and at this time we have no further information other than what we all read/hear on the media, but it appears increasingly likely that school closures will be extended.

This is an unprecedented situation for us all and in difficult times our school community has always displayed solidarity with our members. Please be assured that our staff members here in Saint Attracta's SNS are currently exploring ways to put in place the best arrangements to support you and your children during this time. When schools closed last Thursday week, teachers provided the children with a programme of work to engage with until this Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March.

If your child has completed the assigned work, a separate list of online resources, tips and suggested activities accompanies this letter. This is merely a menu of possible options. As these are stressful times for everyone, please reassure your child and yourselves that everyone learns at a different pace and there is no pressure for all of the assigned work to be completed. You are doing enough. You are loving your children and supporting them through a difficult time.

In the event that schools remain closed, teachers will be in contact with parents next Monday March 30<sup>th</sup> to provide further resources/work for your children to engage with.

For all of the families in our school who have health-care professionals working in hospitals, clinics and testing centres across the country and for all those who have family members providing frontline services that we all continue to rely on, you have the awed respect of a grateful school community and we continue to pray for the safety of all.

Thank you for your support as we all continue to do our best for our school community.

Ní neart go cur le chéile,

Is mise le meas,

Shane Maguire, Príomhoide

### *Iníon Uí Mháirtín's Retirement*

While it seems a lifetime ago after all that has happened in the interim, on 14<sup>th</sup> February last, we bade farewell to our beloved former principal, Iníon Uí Mháirtín after 39 years of incredible service to our school and to our community.

On the Tuesday of her final week the children gave her the most special of send offs on a truly memorable and emotional occasion for everybody concerned. Iníon Uí Mháirtín was genuinely overwhelmed by the outpouring of gratitude and kindness she received. No person, however, has been more deserving of such a tribute.

On a personal note, I would like to thank Iníon Uí Mháirtín for her constant support and encouragement, not only in the last few weeks since appointed but throughout my career. Everyone associated with the school wishes her every health, blessing and happiness in a well-deserved retirement.

*Ní fheicfimid a leithéid arís.*



# SEACHTAÍN NA GAEILGE

Bhí againn an tseachtain a dhúnadh na scoileanna agus bhíomar ag ceiliúradh ár dteanga agus ár gcultúr. Two weeks ago we celebrated all that makes us proud to be Irish, and despite the week being eventually cut short, our children still managed to celebrate our beautiful rich native language and our culture.

Rinneamar an-iarracht Gaeilge a labhairt i ngach áit- sa scoil, sa chlós, sa seomra ranga, mórrhimpeall na scoile agus sa bhaile. Everybody tried to speak the Irish they have in as many places as possible - in school, in the yard and in our activities, outside as well as inside the classroom and of course at home.

Thug na daltaí as ranga ceathair agus rang a sé cuairt go dtí **an phictiúrlann** i nDún Droma chun scánnán a fhéachaint as Gaeilge. We also had **Is Mise** where children dressed up as famous characters and explained who they were in Irish.

Unfortunately our **Seisiún Mór Ceoil** as well as **Óga Yóga** instruction scheduled for later in the week were cancelled. A huge thanks to Ms. Miles for all her Trojan work in promoting Gaeilge throughout the school and also to her Coiste Gaeilge for all their efforts in organising a shortened but nonetheless memorable Seachtain na Gaeilge.

Maith Sibh Go Léir!

## WELLBEING THEME

Our wellbeing theme for the month of March is Springtime, Growth and New Beginnings. At assembly Aliya Kelly, Sebastian McMahon, Rachel Plant and Seán Hynes from Mr Kirwan's class gave us a fantastic presentation based on this month's theme. Here are some of the suggestions that Mr Kirwan's class came up with to help us all improve our own wellbeing:

1. Try something new
2. Value your friendships
3. Be proud of yourself
4. Learn from your mistakes
5. Remember that every day is a new beginning



## TABLE TENNIS, ATHLETICS & OLYMPIC HANDBALLERS



One of our fifth class students, Bruce Tan, recently became the U-13 Boys Leinster Table Tennis Champion. It is a staggering achievement for Bruce, his family and his coaches and it is all the more remarkable considering he is only eleven years old. Bruce has displayed a huge dedication and commitment to his sport over a long number of years and we are hugely proud of his achievements.

A team of 25 students participated in a Track and Field Athletics Meet in the National Indoor Arena in Abbotstown on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February where two of our sixth class students, Philippa McGlynn (silver) and Ciarán Leeson (bronze) medalled in the 60m individual sprints. A fantastic achievement!

We are also very proud of our Olympic Handballers who have enjoyed a terrific campaign over the last number of months. We sported four teams: Under 11 and Under 13 Girls as well as Under 11 and Under 13 Boys, trained by their dedicated teachers Ms. O'Leary, Mr. Kenny, Ms. Healy, Iníon Uí Lorcáin and Ms. McDonagh. The four teams progressed to the Leinsters which took place in Gormanstown on Tuesday March 10th and three of the teams secured third place finishes. A wonderful achievement for the children, their coaches and for the school. Maith Sibh go Léir!

a shortened but nonetheless memorable Seachtain na Gaeilge. Maith Sibh Go Léir!



Suzanne, our school secretary who does so much work to ensure our school runs efficiently, will no longer be available between the 12:30pm and 1:00pm each day.

This is to ensure that Suzanne gets adequate time to take her lunch as very often the office is so busy that she does not get this opportunity.

We ask parents to be mindful of this when arranging early collection of children for appointments etc.



## As you are aware all Confirmations have been postponed until further notice.

Confirmation Day had been scheduled for Thursday May 21<sup>st</sup> 2020 and our Confirmation Retreat had been organised for Thursday April 23<sup>rd</sup>. You Shall Be My Witnesses programme, which started on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March as well as the Keep It Lit Programme have also been postponed until further notice.

We encourage the children to keep praying and may the Holy Spirit be with them and with us all during this time.



On the morning of Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February, Inón Uí Mháirtín's final day as principal, our Green Schools Committee with the help of our caretaker Tony McCann, planted a tree in recognition of Inón Uí Mháirtín's many years of dedicated and selfless service to our school and community.

As part of our commitment to creating a greener school and reducing use of paper, all subsequent Newsletters will be e-mailed to the parent community.



We estimate that this will save, at the very least, a whopping 5000 sheets of paper during the course of a school year!!

Please ensure that all parent email addresses are up to date.

## ROSARY PRAYER GROUP

At lunch-time every Wednesday during Lent, we have been holding a Rosary Prayer Group with about thirty students. We commend their commitment to their faith and the prayers of our young people are needed now more than ever. A blessing of rosary beads will take place please God when we return to school.

## FEBRUARY CAKE SALE

Once again, we say a big THANK YOU to all of you – parents and children – for the wonderful response to our February Cake Sale and raffle which brought in €2,208.00. Go raibh maith agaibh!

## BINGO FUNDRAISER

Our Annual Bingo fundraiser took place on Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup>. A fantastic crowd gathered for the occasion which was wonderfully hosted by parent Paddy Gleeson. Huge thanks to the Parents' Association for all their hard work in organising the event which raises vital funds for our schools.

## Credit Union Table Quiz



The Dundrum Credit Union Table Quiz took place in February and our wonderful pupils were a credit to us. Their general knowledge is astounding and their behaviour was excellent as they represented the school! Both teams put in a great performance, and we're very proud of them. Our teams are listed below. Thanks to Mr. Coughlan for organising and preparing the children.

Maith sibh go léir!

**Junior Team:** Alec Dorgan, Beth Agnew, Maisie Julian, Ronan O' Boyle  
**Senior Team:** Ruairí Fox, Andrea Ghita, Ross O' Riordan, Sean Regan



Just after mid-term, as part of our music curriculum, our 3<sup>rd</sup> class pupils had a few wonderful days with **Paul Maher** from **Simply Music** learning about rhythm, composition, timing and of course boom whackers! This is based on the three strands of the Primary Curriculum for Music (listening, performing and composing).

Some of our 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils are due to participate in a music technology workshop using I-Pads. We hope that this exposure to music will encourage children to pursue music in the future. Thank you Mr. Coughlan for organising this for us.

And as for song-singing - pupils from Ms. Neville's, Mr. Bradley's and Ms. Murphy's 3<sup>rd</sup> class sang their hearts out at the **Córfhéile** festival for school choirs, which took place in the National Basketball Arena on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March. The songs they sang were *Báidín Fheilimigh*, *Moon River* and *Under the Sea*. The children sang their hearts out on the night! Maith sibh, a bhuachaillí agus a chailíní.

# Inspiring Poetry FOR THE TIMES THAT ARE IN IT



*And the people stayed home.  
And read books and listened  
and rested and exercised  
and made art  
and played games  
and learned new ways of being  
and were still.  
And listened more deeply.  
Some meditated,  
some prayed,  
some danced.  
Some met their shadows  
And the people began to think differently.  
And the people healed.  
And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous,  
mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.  
And when the danger passed,  
and the people found each other,  
they grieved their losses,  
and they made new choices  
and dreamed of new visions,  
and created new ways to live  
and healed the earth completely  
just as they were healed themselves*

KATHLEEN O' MEARA